

land's war plants employing women now have Negro women workers. The total so employed, 5,150, is double the figure for last September, according to a report of the womanpower committee of the War Manpower Commission.

O. M. WALTON.

Ban Union from Y.W.C.A.

St. Louis Association Directors Reject Majority Vote of Staff Members

(Special Correspondence)

St. Louis, March 9.—The board of directors of the St. Louis Y.W.C.A. has been confronted for several months by a request for a meeting with representatives of Local 83 of the Social Service Employees Union of the United Office and Professional Workers (C.I.O.). A majority of the members of the St. Louis Y.W.C.A. staff are members of the union, and they have asked that the latter represent them before the board of directors of the Y.W.C.A. The directors have now turned down their request, although it is generally agreed that this action does not close the issue.

Very few St. Louis people know of the problem within the Y.W.C.A. National conventions of this organization have gone on record as favoring the development of responsible labor union movements. Staff members feel that their action in asking the union to represent them is consistent with this national policy, and some members of the board of directors agree with this position. Other board members however, while they are in sympathy with the policy of supporting labor unions for industry, do not believe that the Y.W.C.A. is comparable with an industrial institution.

Majority Vote Turned Down

The president of the board of directors and the general secretary have released to the public a statement which, following an expression of sympathy with the purposes of those who raise the issue, declares:

"In the opinion of many . . . the religious basis and the fellowship nature of the Young Women's Christian Association preclude the necessity of an outside agency to safeguard the interests of its employees, and the introduction of an outside agency into the employer-employee relationship of board and staff would hinder rather than promote dealings satisfactory to the entire association. (This does not enjoin eligible staff members from membership in the union.)

"In declining the request to enter into negotiation with the union, the board deeply regrets the necessity of denying a petition representing a majority of the staff. It wishes to reaffirm its belief in the value of the labor union in industry and the responsibility of the Y.W.C.A. for contributing to the building of a responsible labor movement. Although sympathetic with the liberal trend of the Y.W.C.A. as indicated in convention resolutions in regard to unions within the Young Women's Christian Association, the board must here exercise its privilege of determining the policies which in its opinion will best promote the growth of the St. Louis association."

HAMPTON ADAMS.

Sockman Hits Area Bombing

Replies to Critics of the 28 Pastors Who Condemned Policy—Mme. Sun Asks End of Unequal Treaties

(Correspondence from New York)

NEW YORK, March 17.—Considerable newspaper space is still being given to discussion of the statement against obliteration bombing signed by 28 clergymen. Abuse predominates. Ralph W. Sockman, minister of Christ Church (Methodist) and one of the 28 critics of area bombing, has made a further defense of his view. "Military objectives must now be bombed," he announced in his church, "but the bombing of military objectives is a far different thing from the deliberate obliteration of civilian areas and populations." He insisted that as the indiscriminate bombing of Britain had only stiffened Englishmen's resistance, so obliteration bombing had produced the same effect on the German people. Therefore he held that "from the standpoint of sheer military strategy, I believe it is a mistake to direct attacks on women and children in the effort to check the fighting spirit of a nation." The alternative course, Dr. Sockman said, "lies in a concentrated bombing of military objectives accompanied by a clear declaration from our own government and from Britain as to what kind of postwar world we shall offer Germany." He concluded by declaring, "My conception of the church is that it should try to point toward the highest ideal it can see. If it is to be a mere echo of popular sentiment, why do we need it? There are plenty of voices to cry with the crowd."

Asks Abolition of Unequal Treaties

Over 4,000 people attended a great rally commemorating the 19th anniversary of the death of Dr. Sun Yat-sen, the first president of the Chinese republic. The meeting was sponsored by the East and West Association, United China Relief, the Institute of Pacific Relations, the Foreign Missions Conference and the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association. President Roosevelt and Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek sent greetings, and messages were received by radio from Madame Sun Yat-sen and Dr. Sun Fo, the widow and son of the Chinese leader. Madame Sun asked for the abolition of "unequal treaties" and insisted that China "must and will shake off every form of subservience and imposed dependence." She spoke also of the "holding down of India" by the powers. Dr. Sun Fo, president of the Executive Yuan, was sure that there would "be no more civil wars in China" and that the Kuomintang and the Communists would "sink their little differences and find a permanent solution for the present difficulties."

Brooklyn Clerical Union Is 100 Years Old

The Brooklyn Clerical Union, which is believed to be the oldest Protestant interdenominational clergy club in America, celebrated its 100th anniversary on Satur-

day at the Montauk club, Brooklyn, where bi-weekly meetings have been held for more than 50 years. The club's membership has included some of America's foremost preachers. Its first president was Maurice W. Dwight of the First Reformed Church. During the Civil War period there appeared on the club's rolls the names of Henry Ward Beecher of the Plymouth Church, Richard S. Storrs of the Pilgrim Church and Henry J. Van Dyck of the Second Presbyterian Church. At the turn of the century the members included S. Parkes Cadman of the Central Congregational Church, Joseph Denney Burrell of the Classon Avenue Presbyterian Church, Newell Dwight Hillis of the Plymouth Congregational Church, Cleland McAfee of the Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church and Francis J. McConnell of the New York Avenue Methodist Church. The present officers of the club are Martin Paul Luther, New Utrecht Reformed Church, president, and William E. Sunday of the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, vice-president.

United Christian Council For Democracy Meets

On Monday and Tuesday of this week the United Christian Council for Democracy convened a conference "against discrimination and for economic justice." Meeting at Labor Temple the delegates listened to clergymen, labor leaders, farmers, college professors and Negro and Jewish leaders advocate racial and economic reform. The council is made up of representatives of the social action committees representing the Evangelical and Reformed, Presbyterian, Methodist, Episcopal, Unitarian and Baptist denominations. Richard Morford, the secretary, outlined an action program for these groups. It includes social security, fair employment practice subsidies, at least \$10,000,000,000 in new taxes, abolishment of the poll tax, public works to provide continuous employment, federal unemployment insurance for merchant seamen, free lunches for schoolchildren, help for farm families, increased food production, a national policy outlawing anti-Semitism and abolition of Jim Crowism in the armed services.

And So Forth

John W. Behnken, president of the Lutheran Synod of Missouri, announced a pastoral letter that the 1943 budget of \$2,200,000 had been oversubscribed by \$112,409. This was an increase of 18.7 percent over the 1942 receipts. There are present 5,173 Missouri Synod churches in Missouri, Ohio and many other states.

Benjamin Conkling Bentley was installed as pastor of the Memorial Presbyterian Church, Brooklyn, on Monday night. George A. Buttrick of Madison Avenue Church, Manhattan, preached the sermon of installation.

Chester C. Chilton, formerly associate pastor of the Reformed Church at Bergen, N. J., has been called to the pastorate of Bethany Memorial Reformed Church, Manhattan.

Henry C. Wolk, for 23 years pastor of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Brooklyn, the oldest Lutheran church on Long Island, and with a branch church in Glendale, Queens, died suddenly last Sunday of a heart attack.

J. HENRY CARPENTER